

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01535 121830Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0206
INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1535

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PING BC XJ
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MINEXTAFF MOGWE

1. SUMMARY. MINEXTAFF MOGWE RETURNED JULY SIXTH FROM SIX WEEKS ABROAD ATTENDING SERIES OF UN, AFRO-ARAB AND OAU MEETINGS. DURING AN HOUR'S DISCUSSION JULY 11, MOGWE REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS AT OAU SUMMIT, WHERE HE REPRESENTED BOTSWANA, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE INDICATED UNHAPPINESS WITH THE OUTCOME AND HINTED AT DECEPTION, I.E., PRESIDENT KAUNDA TOLD THE SUMMIT ON BEHALF OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES THAT IT WAS "FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE TO DECIDE" THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE, WHEREAS RESOLUTION LATER ADOPTED, WITHOUT DE-RECOGNIZING ANYONE, RECOGNIZES AND ASKS SUPPORT FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST TO SEE HIM JULY 7 AND 8, MOGWE'S OFFICE REPLIED THAT HE WAS IN MEETINGS AND/OR
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PAGE 02 GABORO 01535 121830Z

BRIEFINGS WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA. ON JULY 11, HE RECEIVED DCM AND ME FOR AN HOUR'S TOUR D'HORIZON. HE EXPLAINED THAT DAYS SINCE HIS RETURN HAD BEEN "HECTIC". INVITED TO COMMENT ON DEVELOPMENTS, MOGWE DESCRIBED PROCEEDINGS AT OAU SUMMIT, AND HIS INTERPRETATION OF THEM, AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH. HE SAID HE SAW THIS MEETING AS SURPRISINGLY SUCCESSFUL, CONTRARY TO SOME PRESS ANALYSES

(RELAYED TO HIM BY GOB OFFICIALS COMING FROM NEW YORK)
PREDICTING THAT CONTENTIOUS ISSUES BETWEEN OAU MEMBERS
MIGHT BRING ABOUT THE VIRTUAL DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION.
HE SAID THE TWO MAIN ASPECTS OF THIS MEETING WHICH SET IT
APART FROM EARLIER OAU MEETINGS WERE: FIRST, THE
GENERAL RECOGNITION THIS WAS "TIME FOR ACTION" AND NEED TO
MATCH WORDS WITH DEEDS, SPECIFICALLY CONCERNING RHODESIAN
THREATS TO MOZAMBIQUE AND BOTSWANA. IN THIS CONNECTION,
MOGWE SAID HE FELT VARIOUS OAU MEMBERS WERE NOW READY
TO MAKE GOOD ON PROMISES OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE UP TO AND
INCLUDING TROOPS IF BOTSWANA ASKED FOR THEM. HE FELT THESE
WERE NO LONGER EMPTY PROMISES; SECOND, THE DETERMINA-
TION TO DISCUSS DISPUTES BETWEEN OAU MEMBERS IN A FORTH-
RIGHT AND PUBLIC MANNER, AS OPPOSED TO EARLIER POLICY OF
"SWEEPING THEM UNDER THE RUG". IN THIS RESPECT, HE
NOTED THAT THE ANGOLA/ZAIRE, CHAD/LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA/
SOMALIA DISPUTES WERE FULLY DEBATED. HE SAID PRES. NIMERI'S
SPEECH ON "SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM" WAS A HIGHLIGHT. MOGWE NOTED
THAT MEETING WAS ALSO CHARACTERIZED BY THE "DECISION OF THE
SO-CALLED DOVES TO CEASE THEIR COOING FOR A WHILE AND TO
ADOPT MORE AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDES VIS-A-VIS THE PROGRESSIVE
STATES". (TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT, MOGWE USED THE SOME-
WHAT UNFORTUNATE EXAMPLE OF DOVES REFUSING TO VOTE FOR
CONDEMNATION ONLY OF WEST GERMAN DEALINGS WITH SAG
BUT INSISTING UPON KEEPING WEST GERMANY ON SAME BASIS
AS THE U.S., UK AND FRANCE, CERTAINLY NOT AS THE SOLE
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PAGE 03 GABORO 01535 121830Z

ALLEGED CULPRIT.)

3. PATRIOTIC FRONT. IN A FURTHER COMMENT ON THE OAU
MEETING, MOGWE DISCUSSED WHAT HE REALIZED WAS
OBVIOUSLY OF GREATEST INTEREST TO US, I.E., THE RESOLUTION TO
GRANT EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE SAID
DISCUSSION IN THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL HAD VERY CLOSELY
PARALLELED BOTSWANA'S POSITION (FOR WHICH HE HAD ACTIVELY
LOBBIED), I.E., THAT ALL POLITICAL FACTIONS OF THE FREEDOM
STRUGGLE ARE TO BE ENCOURAGED BUT THAT THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT, HAVING THE SOLE MILITARY CAPABILITY, REALISTICALLY
MAY BE DEALT WITH AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FREEDOM
STRUGGLE. HE NOTED THAT IN HIS SPEECH TO THE SUMMIT
MEETING, PRESIDENT KAUNDA DID NOT ASK FOR "DE-RECOGNITION"
OF THE SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA FACTIONS. SPECIFICALLY, HE
SAID SELECTION OF EVENTUAL POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN ZIMBABWE
WAS FOR "THE PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE AS A WHOLE" TO DECIDE.
HOWEVER, THE EVENTUAL RESOLUTION, AS LATER REPORTED TO
MOGWE (HE HAD
TO CATCH A PLANE OR STAY FOUR MORE DAYS
IN LIBREVILLE) WENT BEYOND THIS POSITION AND VIRTUALLY IMPLIED
NON-RECOGNITION OF THE OTHER TWO FACTIONS. THIS HE THOUGHT

WAS UNFORTUNATE. THE ONE THING THAT COULD BE SAID ABOUT IT WAS THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS SURE TO SPLIT ASUNDER; IN FACT, MUGABE'S STATEMENTS ALREADY BETRAYED THE FACT THAT HE AND NKOMO WERE THINKING AS THE LEADERS OF TWO ENEMY CAMPS. MUGABE, WHO LACKS A POLITICAL BASE IN ZIMBABWE, MUST CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING HIS MILITARY STRENGTH IF HE IS EFFECTIVELY TO COUNTER NKOMO, WHO HAS BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRENGTH. MUZOREWA, WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF ARMED FOLLOWERS, SHOULD, IF HE WERE WISE, WAIT UNTIL THE DENOUEMENT, WHEN HIS ADHERENTS WOULD SUPPORT HIM WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN. IN ANY CASE, SAID MOGWE (WITH DEPUTY PERMSEC MOGAMI NODDING AGREEMENT). THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT ZIMBABWE WILL ERUPT IN INTER-FACTIONAL STRIFE AND BE "ANOTHER ANGOLA".
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PAGE 04 GABORO 01535 121830Z

4. AT ONE POINT, MOGWE ADDED THAT HE HAD LUNCHEDED WITH MUGABE WHO HAD MADE THE POINT THAT MUZOREWA FORCES IN ZIMBABWE COULD AT LEAST SHOW THEIR OPPOSITION TO SMITH REGIME BY PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION, BOYCOTT OR STRIKE. THEY COULD DO AS MUCH AS THE "SOWETO CHILDREN". MOGWE SAID HE INTENDS TO CONVEY THIS VIEW TO MUZOREWA WHEN HE SEES HIM. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID GOB HAD TURNED DOWN MUZOREWA'S REQUEST TO ESTABLISH AND TRAIN AN ARMY IN BOTSWANA ON GROUNDS THERE WERE "ENOUGHT ARMIES ALREADY".

5. MOGWE'S COMMENTS ON NAMIBIA AND BOPHUTHATSWANA FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
NORLAND

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